(b) if so, the recommendations of the National Commission on Farmers which have been accepted by Government;

(c) what recommendations like MSP have not been accepted by Government in the National Policy alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reasons for Government not placing the subject of agriculture in the Concurrent List?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA):(a)Yes,Sir.

(b) Most of the recommendations made by the National Commission on Farmers (NCF) in the Revised Draft National Policy for Farmers submitted by NCF have been accepted by the Government and incorporated in the National Policy for Farmers 2007 (NPF). Recommendations of NCF which have been accepted by the Government and incorporated in NPF, include, *inter alia* asset reforms in respect of land, water, livestock, fisheries and bioresources; support services and inputs like application of frontier technologies; agricultural biosecurity system; supply of good quality seeds and disease-free planting material; issue of soil health passbooks to the farmers and integrated pest management system; region and crop specific implements and machinery; support services for women like creches, child care centres, nutrition, health and training; timely, adequate and easy reach of institutional credit at reasonable interest rates and farmer-friendly insurance instruments; use of Information and Communication Technology and setting up of farm schools to revitalize agricultural extension; coverage of farmers under a comprehensive national social security scheme; effective implementation of MSP across the country and estabishing community foodgrain banks; development of agricultural market infrastructure and terminal markets for agriculture; curriculum reforms in agricultural universities; special categories of farming like organic farming and contract farming; rural non-farm employment initiatives for farm households; and integrated approach for rural energy, etc.

(c) and (d) A very few recommendations of NCF contained in the Revised Draft National Policy for Farmers submitted by NFC have not been incorporated in the National Policy for Farmers 2007. These include, *inter alia,* the following with reasons therefor: (i) fixation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) at least 50% higher than the weighted average cost of production—as MSP is recommended by the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) on objective criteria considering variety of relevant factors and a mechanical linkage between MSP and cost of production may be counter productive; (ii) MSP and procurement operations to be treated as two separate initiatives—as it would be difficult to implement; (iii) Public Distribution System (PDS) to be made universal—as PDS is a targeted scheme where even off take for BPL families is short against allocation for BPL categories; (iv) establishment of Indian Trade Organisation and National Livestock Development Council at the National level—as the concerned Departments of Government of India opposed to their establishment; (v) enactment of Food Guarantee Act—as the existing schemes and Programmes on food security and rural Employment like NREG Act and revamped PDS take care of the food security of BPL families; (vi) setting up of Agricultural Risk Fund, Market Price Stabilisation Fund and Gram Panchayat Mahila Fund—as these should be proposed as schemes to be funded through the normal budgeting process to which money should flow annually based on performance appraisal without locking in resources in such funds. The recommendation of NCF for placing the subject of Agriculture in Concurrent List was not incorporated in NPF as it would involve Constitutional Amendment.

Recommendation of the NCF

812. DR.GYAN PRAKASHP1LAN1A:
SHRI LAL1T KISHORE CHATURVEDI:
SHRI PENUMALLIMADHU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission on Farmers has recommended any roadmap/ programme for rejuvenation of agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Commission has recommended for reduction of interest on loans to farmers and fixing of institutional credit at below 4 per cent interest;

(d) if so, the details thereof and which of the recommendations have been accepted and implemented;

(e) whether Government has prepared any plan of action;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (f) Based on the Revised Draft National Policy for Farmers submitted by the National Commission on Farmers, the Government has approved the National Policy for Farmers 2007. Various recommendations made by the Commission for rejuvenation of agriculture and allied sectors, as accepted by the Government have been incorported in the National Policy for Farmers. These include, *inter alia,* assest reforms in respect of land, water, livestock, fisheries and bioresources; support services and inputs like application of frontier technologies; agricultural biosecurity system; supply of good quality seeds and disease-free planting material; issue of soil health passbooks to the farmers and integrated pest management system; region and crop sepecific implements and machinery support services for women like creches, child care centres, nutrition; health training timely adequate and easy reach of institutional credit at reasonable interest rates and farmers-friendly insurances instruments, use of information amd Communications Technology and setting up of farms schools to revitalize agricultural extension; coverage of farmers under a comprehensive national social security scheme, effective implementation of MSP across the country and establishing community foodgrains; development of agricultural market infrastructure and terminal markets for agriculture; curriculum reforms in agricultural universities; special categories of farming like oranic farming and contract farming; rural non-farms employment initiative for farm households; and integrated approach for rural energy, etc. Farmers are now receving short terms credit upto Rs. 3 lakh at a reduced interest rate of 7 per cent per annum.

Many of the provisions contained in the National Policy for Farmers 2007 are already under implementation by various Central Ministries and Department and the State through several on-going schemes and programmes. Recently Government launched two new schemes *i.e.* National Food Security Mission and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana. These two schemes are expected to go a long way in operationlizing the provisions of the National Policy for Farmers, 2007 through State specific de-centralized strategy taking into account the agro-climatic and other local conditions for development of agriculture and allied sectors.